

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/791,787**
Amendment filed August 14, 2006
Reply to OA dated March 14, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11-23 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 5-8 and 16-18 have been amended herein and claims 19-23 have been newly added herein. Claims 4, 9, and 10 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement dated December 2, 2005 is improper and should be withdrawn. If the search and examination of all claims in the application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions (MPEP 803). The Examiner has not yet demonstrated that there is a serious burden.

The Examiner has required a new title. Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the title as amended herein, the requirement as to the title should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP Pub. US2003/0007262 (**Tsuboi**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

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Tsuboi fails to inherently or expressly describe the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “the torsion bar is connected to a first portion of the oscillation section at which the oscillation axis passes, each of the first and second springs being connected to a second portion of the oscillation section that is located away from the oscillation axis,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 3 and 13 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 1, 3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP 6,122,089 (**Minamoto**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

Minamoto fails to inherently or expressly describe the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “the torsion bar is connected to a first portion of the oscillation section at which the oscillation axis passes, each of the first and second springs being connected to a second portion of the oscillation section that is located away from the oscillation axis,” in combination with the other claimed features.

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Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 3 and 13 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

Claims 1, 3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by JP 200214560 (**Tokuda**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

Tokuda fails to inherently or expressly describe the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “the torsion bar is connected to a first portion of the oscillation section at which the oscillation axis passes, each of the first and second springs being connected to a second portion of the oscillation section that is located away from the oscillation axis,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 3 and 13 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

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Claim 1, 3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP Pub. US2003/0117687 (**Murakami**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

Murakami fails to inherently or expressly describe the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “the torsion bar is connected to a first portion of the oscillation section at which the oscillation axis passes, each of the first and second springs being connected to a second portion of the oscillation section that is located away from the oscillation axis,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 3 and 13 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 1, 3, and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by USP Pub. US2003/053186 (**Arima**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

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Arima fails to inherently or expressly describe the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “at least one torsion bar connecting the oscillation section to the main frame for defining an oscillation axis about which the oscillation section pivotally oscillates relative to the main frame,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection of claims 3 and 13 should be withdrawn by virtue of their dependency.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently pending are in condition for examination.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants’ undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension